

Title: Social Drivers of Health Screening Development and Implementation at an Urban Native American Community Clinic

Background:

Indian Health Board (IHB), a federally qualified healthcare center (FQHC) located near Minneapolis's American Indian Cultural Corridor, serves a predominantly urban Native American population. Social drivers of health (SDoH) screenings have gained momentum nationally, becoming a standard of care. IHB's implementation presents challenges shared with similar organizations including workflow adjustments and securing buy-in from staff. IHB's unique positioning as an Urban Native American FQHC allows for culturally informed approaches to address a population who has experienced significant health disparities and historical trauma.

Objective:

To address SDoH, we modified a Patient Support Questionnaire (PSQ) designed to link patients with clinic services and connect them with community and cultural resources. This instrument was chosen and adapted to reduce documentation burden for both timeliness and literacy, to communicate areas where assistance is available, and to promote patient agency in addressing their needs.

Methods

Key components of implementation include staff training, integration into the Electronic Health Record (EHR) system and maintaining flexible workflow processes. We integrate varied data sources including staff feedback, patient interviews, and resource utilization to enhance the effectiveness of SDoH screenings and culturally responsive care delivery. Data is collected via surveys, interviews, EHR reviews, and PDSAs (Plan, Do, Study, Act) (Plan, Do, Study, Act) in the clinic.

Results:

Initial patient and staff feedback about the instrument has shown appreciation for patient connection to resources and observed minimal workflow disruptions, although visit length has increased. Data collection continues as the project ramps up to full implementation and is informing ongoing refinement of service delivery and adjustments in clinical practices.

Conclusion:

This case study explores the evolving landscape of SDoH screening at Indian Health Board, highlighting the role of cultural health in healthcare outcomes. By fostering dialogue and collaboration across stakeholders, we aim to advance both clinical practice and community health through culturally informed SDoH interventions.